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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Gotha

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EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE PREPARED

28 December 1951

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

REFERENCE COPY

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1. On 16 November 1951, the Flak Kaserne in Gotha (N 51/J 60), which is located on the road to Waltershausen, was occupied by about 2,500 troops. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] tank and artillery units were quartered in the installation. About 120 soldiers were engaged in basic training and physical exercise in the barracks yard, and a group of 25 soldiers with firing equipment marched from the installation toward the firing range. A radio station with a mast, about 3 meters high, was observed in the billeting area. [redacted]
2. [redacted] about 30,000 troops were at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds in mid-November, and that more than 60,000 troops had been there during the summer of 1951. **
3. On 2 December, one section of the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. A radio station was seen in the same section, where [redacted] 120-mm mortars were also stationed. [redacted] The other section of the Flak Kaserne billeted about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, and black-bordered black epaulets. About 30 soldiers were observed receiving basic training. A radar set with a mast braced by four guy lines stood behind the Flak Kaserne and was operated by soldiers quartered in the second section of the installation. Truck [redacted] was observed driving to the latter section. *
4. The following troop trains were observed in the area of Gotha between 10 and 16 November:
- 9:32 a.m. on 10 November. A train of three boxcars with soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets, and an unknown number of flatcars with 14 tanks, 3 x 35-mm AT guns and 17 trucks. [redacted]
- [redacted] The train came from Neudietendorf and went toward Gotha.

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CLASSIFICATION

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10 a.m. on 13 November. A train of three boxcars with soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets, and an unknown number of flatcars with 12 tanks, 4 four-wheel scout cars and 14 trucks.

The train passed through the Seebergen railroad station toward Eisenach.

1:30 p.m. on 14 November. A train of six boxcars with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and an unknown number of flatcars with 16 tanks and 8 trucks.

The train was observed on the Gotha-Georgenthal line.

8 p.m. on 16 November. A train of an unknown number of cars with canvas-covered artillery pieces and 12 trucks

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. [redacted] paragraphs 1 and 3, probably referred to the barracks installations constituting a collective billeting area on Schubert Strasse north of Sundhauser Strasse. The information indicates that most of the 172d Gds Itz Rifle Regt and the 123th Gds Gun Regt of the 57th Gds Itz Rifle Div, which are believed to be stationed there, were in their permanent quarters between mid-November and early December 1951. [redacted] The radio station and the radar set together with the soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets indicate that a signal unit may also be stationed at the Flak Kaserne. [redacted] The radar set was probably of Dumbo type. [redacted] ** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. The four trains which went to the troop training grounds of Ohrdruf and/or Kindel between 10 and 16 November carried the 68th (?) Hvy Tank SP Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, the 19th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the 21st Gds Mecz Div, an unidentified unit, and the 123th Gds Gun Arty Regt of the 57th Gds Itz Rifle Div respectively. In addition to these units, it has been determined [redacted] the majority of the components of the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div may have gone to Ohrdruf to stay there in permanent billets throughout the winter. [redacted] Though being correct with regard to the fact that sizable units will stay at Ohrdruf this winter [redacted] paragraph 2 of the present report exaggerated the number of troops concerned.

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